



Canola Exports to China - Phytosanitary Requirements

Blackleg

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has advised the grain trade that it received a notice from China on October 20, 2009 that effective November 15, 2009 a phytosanitary certificate is required for canola shipments to China certifying that the shipments are free from blackleg (*Leptosphaeria maculans*). November 15 is the date of shipment from Canada, not arrival in China. CFIA has indicated that it will not be able to issue a certificate as blackleg is a common plant disease of canola in Canada and there is agreed to testing method.

Blackleg is a serious plant disease of canola that can result in significant yield loss in susceptible varieties. It is caused by the fungus *Leptosphaeria maculans* and commonly occurs in canola growing regions throughout the world. Blackleg is only a disease of some plants. It does not affect animals. Although blackleg does occur in China, the Chinese have indicated that they have non-virulent strains while Canada and Australia have virulent strains that could impact their rapeseed crop.

Australia has also been notified that their canola shipments to China must be certified free from blackleg effective October 15, 2009.

CFIA and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) consider this a very important issue that must be resolved quickly. CFIA immediately requested a minimum six month extension to deal with this issue and to provide China with additional information. A delegation from AAFC and the CFIA will be meeting with Chinese officials during the week of October 26, 2009.

Further updates will be posted to the CCC website as they become available.

Weed Seeds

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has advised the grain trade that a phytosanitary certificate is required for grain (including canola) shipments to China certifying that the shipments are free from the following eleven weed seeds:

- *Lolium temulentum*. (darnel ryegrass)
- *Sorghum halepense* (Johnson grass)
- *Cenchrus* spp. (non-Chinese species) (sandbur)
- *Solanum carolinense* (bull nettle)
- *Solanum rostratum* (buffalo bur)
- *Xanthium* spp. (cocklebur)
- *Ipomoea pandurata* (wild potato vine)
- *Iva axillaris* (povertyweed)
- *Iva xanthiifolia* (false ragweed)

- *Knautia arvensis* (field scabious)
- *Lactuca pulchella* (blue lettuce)

This list is reduced from the 21 weed seeds as notified by CFIA in April 2009.

The CFIA is in discussions with Chinese officials about a tolerance level for the weed seeds - until then the tolerance is zero, but CFIA has indicated that it will deal with issues on a case-by-case basis.

Contact:

Debbie Belanger
Communications Manager
Canola Council of Canada
400-167 Lombard Ave
Winnipeg, MB R3B 0T6
Phone: (204) 982-2111
www.canolacouncil.org